

## **Knox Statement**

### **Secretary of Navy's Report Is Relief to People of the Nation**

Tragic, indeed, is the detailed report of Secretary of the Navy Knox, following his personal inspection of the disaster in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, because of the great loss of life among the naval forces there.

Offsetting to a considerable degree this darkest side of the picture is the fact that the mighty Pacific Fleet WAS NOT PUT OUT OF BUSINESS, as Japan had hoped, but is still in CONTROL OF THE PACIFIC, and, with the fleets of its allies, Great Britain and The Netherlands East Indies, is not after a treacherous and cowardly Japan that has not the courage to face it.

The most serious loss in Pearl Harbor was that of the battleship Arizona, as it was one of the first line vessels in the Navy. Several of the other vessels lost were smaller craft, of which the Navy has many, and one or two others that had outlived their usefulness and were being used for other purposes.

It was disquieting to read Secretary Knox's statement that the armed forces in Hawaii HAD NOT been on the alert against attack, but it was cheering to realize how quickly they awoke to the situation and the heroic manner in which every man of the warships attacked responded.

Their conduct during the surprise attack will become a prideful and imperishable part of the glorious traditions of the United States Navy.

Publication of the full text of the report by Secretary Knox was commendable in that it disposed of all uncertainty in the public mind as to just what happened and wrote "finis" to many groundless rumors born of that uncertainty and the falsehoods of the enemy.

There will be an investigation, as there should be, of the failure of the proper authorities to guard against the surprise attack.

That the American Navy will run the fleeing Japanese off the seas before this war ends, and will make them pay in full and then some is certain. An attack so dastardly as that made by hypocritical Japan did not "shatter the Pacific fleet," as braggart Japan boasted, but it brought the wrath of America to a white heat that will shrivel the Japanese empire before peace returns to the world.